

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MILAN 00344 011533Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/043 W

-----012212 092784 /70

R 011400Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5265

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MILAN 0344

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EINV, IT

SUBJECT: DOW-LEPETIT OBSERVES TRANQUIL LABOR SITUATION

1. SUMMARY. DOW-LEPETIT (ITALIAN SUBSIDIARY OF DOW CHEMICAL) OFFICIALS IN MILAN, FLUSHED WITH THEIR OWN RECENT SUCCESSES IN LABOR FIELD, CONSIDER FEAR THAT UNIONS WILL REJECT CURRENT GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY MEASURES AS UNJUSTIFIED. ALTHOUGH UNIONS, THEY SAID, WILL MAKE MUCH NOISE TO CONTRARY, THEY WILL IN FACT BE COOPERATIVE WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY THROUGH REMAINDER OF 1977. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMIC OFFICER, DOW-LEPETIT (ITALIAN SUBSIDIARY OF DOW CHEMICAL) PERSONNEL OFFICERS DESCRIBED THEIR UNION RELATIONS THIS PAST YEAR AS REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL. THROUGHOUT A MAJOR FORCE REDUCTION DOW EXPERIENCED ONLY MINOR TOKEN STRIKES AND BY OCTOBER 1976 HAD REDUCED ITS FORCE TO 3300, DOWN 1000 FROM A YEAR EARLIER (SEE 1976, MILAN 1979).

3. ONE DOW OFFICIAL SAID THAT DOW-LEPETIT MIGHT PAT ITSELF ON THE BACK FOR THIS SUCCESS ("SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE HAS DONE"), BUT SHOULD RIGHTFULLY ADD THAT UNION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MILAN 00344 011533Z

WEAKNESS MADE WHOLE THING POSSIBLE. ANOTHER ADDED THAT UNIONS ARE ESPECIALLY WEAK RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF HARD ECONOMIC TIMES. THEY MENTIONED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE HEADLINED "DOW STILL REFUSES TO MEET UNIONS LEADERS" AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF UNION WEAKNESSES, EXPLAINING THEY HAD IN FACT BEEN READY TO MEET UNION LEADERS WHENEVER LATTER WISH BUT THAT UNION LEADERS HAD SAID THEY DID

NOT REALLY WANT TO GET TOGETHER. ARTICLE HAD BEEN
MERELY A MEANS OF MAINTAINING UNION IMAGE WITH MEMBERSHIP.

4. DOW OFFICIALS ADDED THAT CURRENT LABOR DEMONSTRATIONS
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT ARE LIKEWISE ORGANIZED TO AVOID
LACKLUSTER APPEARANCE. ONE MENTIONED THAT ONE FEBRUARY 22
UNION LEADERS HAD CALLED A STRIKE IN DOW'S PIEDMONT
PLANT TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT ECONOMIC POLICIES.
"THE WORKERS ACTUALLY VOTED IT DOWN AND SHOWED UP FOR
WORK." THEY ALSO MENTIONED THAT DEMONSTRATION PLANNED
SOON IN MILAN WILL SURELY BRING OUT 10,000 UNIONISTS.
" BUT IT IS SOMETHING THEY FEEL THEY HAVE TO DO. THEY
INTEND TO GO ALONG WITH THE GOVERNMENT HROORAM."

5. ALL IN ALL LABOR SITUATION IS DEFINITELY QUIETER
NOW THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR LONG TIME, SAID DOW. LABOR'S
DESIRE TO AVOID ROCKING BOAT WOULD BEGIN TO DISSIPATE
THROUGH 1977. DOW OFFICERS EXPECTED LABOR TO BE VERY
ACTIVE BY END OF 1977 AND TO BE MAKING HEAVY DEMANDS
BY BEGINNING OF 1978. MOREOVER, GOVERNMENT WOULD
ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER UNION STRENGTH THROUGH CURRENT YEAR.
GOVERNMENT FULLY RECOGNIZED PRESENT UNION WEAKNESS
AND DEFINITELY PREFERRED STRONG UNIONS TO ALTERNATIVE
OF THEIR HAVING LITTLE OR NO UNION CONTROL OVER WORKERS.

6. DOW OFFICIALS' FINAL POINT WAS THAT LABOR, LIKE THE
PCI ITSELF, IS ATTEMPTING TO SHED ITS MARXIST POLITICAL
APPEARANCE IN ATTEMPT TO GAIN RESPECTABLE IMAGE. AS
XAMPLE THEY MENTIONED RECENT EUROPEAN LABOR MEETING IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MILAN 00344 011533Z

GERMANY WHERE ITALIAN LABOR LEADERS, BREAKING FROM
TRADITION, MADE OVERTURES FOR GREATER EUROPEAN COOPERATION.
FINA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MILAN00344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-0935
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703105/aaaadpej.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d00128ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2951623
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOW-LEPETIT OBSERVES TRANQUIL LABOR SITUATION
TAGS: ELAB, EINV, IT, DOW-LEPETIT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d00128ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009